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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

STROHM et al.

Atty. Ref.: 3547-6

Serial No. **Unknown**

Group:

National Phase of **PCT/EP99/05011**

Filed: **January 22, 2001**

Examiner:

For: **FILTER MODULE**

* * * * *

January 22, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line, insert as a separate paragraph:

✓ This application is the national phase of international application
PCT/EP99/05011 filed July 15, 1999. ✓

IN THE CLAIMS (AS ATTACHED TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT)

Please substitute the following amended claims 1 through 14 for original claims 1 through 14. A copy of original claims 1 through 14 showing revisions is attached.

1. (Amended) Filter module with layers of filter layers of deep bed filter material, between which there are spacer elements of draining layers, the draining layers and the filter layers being stacked on one another without gaps, and the draining layers being sealed on alternate sides to the filtrate/unfiltered material space by means of sealing